

CABINET CALLING ENGROSSES SOCIETY; FIRST RECEPTIONS OF SEASON

Without its books—but the Secretary's law library and many other volumes are still packed up.

In the dining room, which is paneled in dark wood half way up and tinted dull gold above, hangs Lasso's portrait of Secretary Hughes, a speaking likeness and the sort of portrait one would like to live with.

It was really great fun making the rounds on Wednesday. Everybody was doing it, and after one had encountered one's friends for the third or fourth time greetings began to lose their formality and take on a touch of hilarity.

I ran into Miss Mellon at Mrs. Coolidge's and again at Mrs. Hughes' and again at Mrs. Denby's and Mrs. Hoover's—and after that I lost count. She looked very pretty, a tall, slim girl in a modish navy blue suit, with a collar of gray brushed wool or plush—one of the smart new fabrics which look like fur, but aren't—and a becoming little hat with an ornament dangling over one ear. And she and her cousin and particular chum, Miss Olive Graef, who was calling with her, were apparently having lots of fun out of doing their official duty.

Mme. Koo, wife of the chief of the Chinese conference delegation, was calling, the wee Pekinese, which is her inseparable companion, tucked under her arm. At Mrs. Coolidge's Mme. Koo appeared to be under the wing of Mrs. Robert Lansing, whose husband is China's chief counselor in this country; but when I met Mrs. Lansing again at Mrs. Hughes' they had separated. Herself the wife of a former Secretary of State, Mrs. Lansing was making cabinet calls for the first time in nine years—and was thoroughly enjoying herself.

In most instances the Cabinet ladies were assisted by the wives of the assistant secretaries. Mrs. Wainwright, the handsome wife of the Assistant Secretary of War, received with Mrs. Weeks, and with Mrs. Denby stood "young Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt," wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Although she's the mother of several sturdy children she looks the veriest slip of a girl. She has a delicate high bred face, a slim graceful figure and she is one of the best dressed women in the younger set in Washington. She looked as pretty as a picture on Wednesday in her Foch blue frock. It seemed to be fashioned of duvetyne or some other soft heavy fabric, with a bit of silver in the low swung grille and a bit of silver gray fur about the collar. And she wore a little Russian turban of gray fur and donned a gray fur trimmed cloak when she went out.

MRS. HOOVER had the wives of the officials of the Department of Commerce assisting her. And they presided in turn over a tea table, which had a centerpiece suggestive of Thanksgiving time.

A giant pumpkin on a silver tray was almost smothered in clusters of juicy grapes, with nuts and figs and raisins heaped about; and in the glow of the candles on the table it was prettier even than the flowers one usually sees.

The Hoovers' house is stunning, spacious rooms about a big square hall and filled with rare and beautiful things picked up in their wanderings over the world. In the hall-way the most conspicuous thing is a painted chest, or cabinet, an old Dutch colonial piece, one of the fruits of Mrs. Hoover's "shopping expedition" in New England last summer, when she spent many happy hours in search of lovely old bits of furniture for her lovely new home.

In plan, Secretary and Mrs. Denby's house is not unlike the Hoovers', although the rooms are differently arranged. It has a look of home that is most appealing, and it was particularly gay there on Wednesday as a section of the Navy Band, tucked away on the stair landing, played during the afternoon.

OUT at Wardman Park, where Mrs. Fall, Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Davis were receiving together, there was a long list of assistants, since three departments were represented—no, four, Mrs. Hubert Work, wife of the Assistant Postmaster General, being included in lieu of Mrs. Hays, the Postmaster General's wife, who is still away. Mrs. Nathan Kendall, wife of the governor of Iowa, was at one end of the tea table and Mrs. Harry New at the other.

Celestias Hosts at Delightful Dinner

MR. and Mrs. Geisser Celestia, of the Italian embassy, gave a dinner last evening, having as guests General Vaccari and Admiral Acton, of the Italian delegation; Congressman and Mrs. John Jacob Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Delano Robbins, Maj. and Mrs. C. E. D. Bridge, of the British embassy, and Miss Peters, who is visiting them; Mr. Spelling, of the British delegation; Mrs. Vincent Astor, Miss Manuela Lloveras, Miss Josephine Patten and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert J. Stabler.

Absentees Among Conferees During First of Week Parties Take Foreign Visitors Away From Washington

WHILE the conference delegates were much feted during the last week, they shared the social stage with the debutantes, the diplomats and official folk, who have not been much in the spotlight of late. Indeed, during the early part of the week the delegates were somewhat scattered.

Mr. Balfour was in New York until Wednesday, going north after staying over Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John W. Garrett at Evergreen, their place near Baltimore. And Lord Lee of Fareham and Lady Lee spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hertle at Gunston Hall.

The foreigners who visit Washington take great delight in visiting this historic old place, the country seat of George Mason, who wrote the famous Virginia bill of rights, played an important part in the history of revolutionary days and was George Washington's neighbor and intimate friend. For it has been restored with loving care and with respect, almost reverence, for its traditions; and Mr. and Mrs. Hertle—Chicago people, who bought the place some years ago from members of the Mason family—keep it up in traditional style, dispensing hospitality in a generous fashion which is in itself reminiscent of colonial days.

In the last few years they have entertained a great many of the notable visitors from overseas whom Fate has brought to the Capital. Indeed, an unofficial pilgrimage to Gunston Hall is almost as much a part of their education as the official visit to Mount Vernon, to which every visiting potentate is treated sooner or later.

MME. VIVIANI was another absentee during the early part of the week, having been off on a trip to Buffalo, Niagara Falls and into Canada. She got back on Friday.

Most of the Netherlands delegation spent the last week-end in Baltimore with Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Marburg. They all came back on Sunday evening with the exception of Jonkheer and Mme. de With and Jonkheer and Mme. van Starckenborgh, who stayed over for the Monday German, for which all Baltimore turned out—and most of Washington, apparently.

Senator and Mrs. Oscar Underwood have been obliged to withdraw from all the social activities in connection with the conference on account of the death of the Senator's mother.

YES, Mrs. Root, wife of Elihu Root, the fourth member of the American conference delegation, is in Washington with her husband. There have been many queries about her as she has not taken any part in any of the season's social activities, and Mr. Root has been frequently entertained at dinner without her. Mrs. Root is in rather frail health, it appears, and her doctor has given her strict orders against overdoing. Consequently she refuses all invitations, although she attends the open sessions of the conference, and occasionally has a few guests in to tea with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Root are occupying Mrs. Marion P. Maus' apartment, at 1302 Eighteenth street. Mrs. Root has proved herself a wise woman in her age and generation. She has solved the servant problem—as far as she and her household, at least, are concerned.

The Roots when really at home live in Hamilton, N. Y., where there is a college. Mrs. Root has two college girls to minister to her and Mr. Root's comfort, and they do it beautifully. Mrs. Root said she never was so comfortable before, nor ever had so much peace of mind. The college girls take care of the menage as if it were their own and in exchange for the interest they take Mr. Root gives them friendly advice with their studies. According to Mrs. Root it all works out beautifully.

MR. and Mrs. Louis M. Schaefer announce the engagement of their daughter, Muriel Rose, to John Raymond Henderson, the son of John M. Henderson, of Chevy Chase.

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MRS. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, is establishing a reputation as one of the best dressed women in Washington. Mrs. Roosevelt, who was before her marriage, Miss Eleanor B. Alexander, is both charming and pretty. She is one of the most popular hostesses among the younger married set.



MRS. THEO. ROOSEVELT.
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VISITORS THRILLED AT SOLDIER DRILLS

THROUGH the courtesy of Col. William C. Rivers, commandant at Fort Myer, the exhibition drills—cavalry and artillery—at the post are giving a bit of a thrill to many of the overseas visitors in Washington. There was one on Friday, with the foreign newspaper correspondents as the special guests and the Press Club Post of the American Legion playing hosts for the occasion.

There will be another drill on Tuesday, this time under the auspices of the committee on courtesy to the women of the conference. And then on Saturday afternoon will come the drill in aid of the Army Relief Society.

This is an annual—and always most successful—event, and in some ways it will be the most interesting of the three. Mrs. Harding is expected to attend. Lots of important official personages will be present, and, of course, the army contingent will turn out in force.

THE drill will, as usual, be followed by a tea dance in the administration building, which promises much in the way of amusement. The Third Cavalry Band will play. The decorations will be artistic and a delicious tea will be served. In addition home-made cakes and candies will be sold, as well as nosegays donated by the florists of the city. A large attendance is expected.

The Army Relief Society was organized in 1899 and its work is to help the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers. Such interesting cases as have come up! No woman has ever been known to ask for money, but only for help to help herself earn a living. Education is one of the chief objects of the society. Young men and women have been helped through college. Boys and girls, who have demonstrated a definite talent for music or any of the arts, have been assisted in developing that talent until they could be self-supporting.

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FAMOUS BEAUTIES TO LIVE AGAIN AT OPERA BALL

Living Pictures to Contribute Element of Interest

THE Old Masters and the lovely ladies of long ago whose loveliness they have immortalized on canvas will live again for a few brief hours next Thursday evening, December 15, at the Washington Opera Company's ball.

Sweet frail Lady Hamilton, as charming as in the days when she held the great Lord Nelson captive to her winning smile, will step down from her golden frame to mingle with a throng that will include rival beauties of half a dozen generations of artists. Lorna Doone, as winsome as when she left the robber camp for stalwart John Ridd, will make one of the throng.

The famous paintings and the beauties of history they depict will be represented by a fascinating group of Washington's prettiest girls. The tableaux, staged in frames above the boxes, are being arranged by Franklin Barber Clark, the miniature painter. Huge flags of the native countries of the artists whose pictures have been selected for the tableaux will drape the boxes.

Among the paintings that will be presented will be: Portrait of a Colonial Lady, by Franklin Barber Clark, posed by Mrs. Julian S. Carter, of Baltimore; Mme. de Guzman, by Nattier, posed by Miss Mary Montgomery; Lorna Doone, by William Clark Womert, posed by Miss Anna Montgomery; Lady Hamilton, by Romney, posed by Miss Laura Bryn; Countess Potocka, by Anton Grann, posed by Miss Margaret Deebie; La Letiere, by Greuze, posed by Miss Frances Clarke; Spanish Dancer, by an unknown artist, posed by Miss Josephine Pomeroy; Countess of Oxford, by Hoppner, posed by Miss Annette Ashford; Mme. Louise de France, by Nattier, posed by Miss Rosalind Wright; A Girl With Doves, by Greuze, posed by Miss Elizabeth Howe; Mrs. Robinson, by Gainsborough, posed by Miss Ingegerd Wallenberg, and Mrs. Mark Currie, by Romney, posed by Mrs. Lawrence Reddington.

The portraits will be unveiled by Mrs. Charles H. Campbell, who will wear colonial costume.

THE ball is the first public appearance of the Washington Opera Company this winter. After their very successful season last winter, friends of music, and the Washington Opera Company in particular, had been wondering just what had become of them. It appears, however, that the company has been busy rehearsing a series of operas and signing up a whole galaxy of guest artists for the leading roles. Some difficulty seems to be in the matter of a suitable house in which to produce the operas. Apparently every theater is taken for the season. So at present the company is looking for a home—they have the operas, they have the stars, their only need is a home, which brings us again to Washington's trying need for an operahouse.

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NOTABLE ASSEMBLAGE AT CAPITOL HEARS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE READ; CONFERENCE DELEGATES ON FLOOR

Interest Divided Between Scene on Floor and Spectators in Galleries

OF all the events of a busy week, one thing stands out with memorable distinctness—President Harding's reading of his annual message to Congress. It's always picturesque when the President—in person—delivers his message; for everybody who has the precious privilege of the floor makes use of it and the galleries are always crowded with those who by right—or might—can obtain a ticket. And on Tuesday there was an added element of interest from the presence on the floor of the sundry foreign delegations to the arms conference, their ladies smiling down upon them from the galleries above. Indeed, it was difficult to estimate which was the more interested—the foreign visitors in the scene that was being played out before them or the rest of the assemblage in the forgers who were watching so intently.

SOMETIMES there is a good deal of pomp about the assembling of the various groups on the floor of the House—the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, the Supreme Court, et al., each group being formally announced. This time, however, everybody, even the delegates who were seated up near the front on either side of the Speaker's rostrum, seemed to slip in unceremoniously. Only the Senate, which came over to a body, according to custom, was formally heralded—and the President, of course.

He got a genuine ovation, everybody on the floor and in the galleries standing up and applauding to the echo. Mrs. Harding, too, came in for a spontaneous round of applause and a "standing vote" of welcome.

She, of course, arrived ahead of the President. When the assemblage arose to welcome him, possibly she rose too. But when I looked back a moment later she was seated again and smiling and shaking her head at those who smiled down at her.

In Mrs. Harding's party were the Under Secretary of State and Mrs. Henry P. Fletcher, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. C. E. Sawyer, Miss Laura Harlan, Judson C. Welliver, and Marshall Shepley of Ohio.

Contrary to the usual arrangement, the Presidential "pew" was on the side next the diplomatic gallery, so Mrs. Harding found herself next Mme. Jusserand and chatted with her animatedly what time the President was not speaking.

ing. Lady Geddes, wife of the British Ambassador, was next to her—all in black, and wearing a most becoming black hat—and there, too, one found Baroness de Cartier and Mme. Sze, whose husbands are members of the diplomatic corps as well as conference delegates, while the wives of other members of the delegations, Mme. Koo, Lady Lee, Lady Borden and the rest, had reserved for them the first two rows of a section of the gallery across the hall.

MRS. GILLET, who had the place where the President's wife usually sits, had a particularly interesting group of guests with her. General the Earl of Cavan was in her party, also Mr. and Mrs. Henry White, who have only recently arrived from New York to stay, one hopes, for several weeks; Mrs. Willard Straight, of New York, who is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher; Miss Mabel Boardman, Mrs. William Marshall Bullitt, and Mrs. Henry C. Corbin. Mrs. Hughes was there and Mrs. Weeks, but I didn't "spot" any other members of the Cabinet circle.

The prevailing fondness for black for street wear detracts considerably from the brilliance of such an assemblage and makes it difficult to pick out the high lights. Mrs. Harding had on a wonderful baby lamb coat, with chinchilla collar, and a black hat rather larger than the ones she has been wearing of late. Mme. Grouitch, in black, with small white feathers in her hat, was in the diplomatic gallery. So, too, was Mme. de Cespedes, who was ill for a while, and has since been spending some time in New York, so that one has scarcely seen her anywhere this winter. She had a furled cloak—caracul, of course, for that's the smartest thing this year, and the Cuban minister's wife is always just a wee bit ahead of the mode—and in her hat was a paradise feather almost a foot tall, which waved and beckoned like a little flag in a frisky breeze.

Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, in a greeny blue duvetyne frock braided in something between a rose and a red, looked particularly well and people seemed interested in watching her. They always are, as a matter of fact, for "the Colonel's" eldest daughter has inherited much of her father's magnetism. She had a becoming big black hat, but as usual it was in her hand much more than it was on her head. Mme. Koo was swathed in splendid

furs and wore an engaging little black hat with a pom-pom over one ear. Mme. Saburi, wife of the counselor of the Japanese embassy, had on a stunning moleskin wrap and wore a smart little hat. Others in the galleries were Mrs. Willis Van Devanter, Mrs. Henry W. Keyes, Mrs. James E. Mann, Mrs. Rufus Day, Miss Gladys Hinckley and H. G. Walls, the British novelist, who had expressed a keen desire to see the Senate "in action."

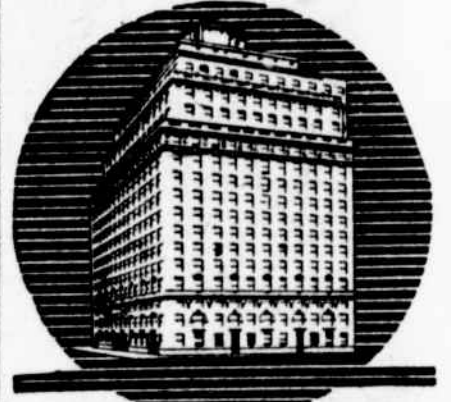
I saw two cunning youngsters on the floor of the House thoroughly enjoying themselves and quite oblivious of the people who tried to flirt with them from the galleries. Whenever any picture session of this sort is going on at the House, one always finds a child or two slipped in, but I've never seen a kiddie upon the floor of the Senate—not even when King Albert of Belgium visited Congress, although at that time there were numbers of children in the House. Presumably the rules are the same, but apparently the House is disposed to close its eyes upon occasion to infractions of 'em.

One missed Mrs. Coolidge's smiling face from the gallery, since she was up in Northampton casting her vote in the municipal elections. The Vice President was voting, too, so the President pro tempore of the Senate was in the chair.

Miss Mary A. Smith To Wed Army Officer

MR. and Mrs. John Lewis Smith announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Mary Ambler Smith, to Capt. P. Lee Sadler, U. S. A. The wedding will take place in April.

Captain Sadler, whose home is in Alabama, is now stationed at Fort Washington. Miss Smith made her debut last winter and was much feted.



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